

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/710,775
Amendment dated July 27, 2005
Reply to OA of May 3, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7 and 8 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 3, 2005.

Claims 1 - 12 remain in this patent application.

At the outset, the applicants thank the Examiner for now indicating that claims 1 - 3, 5, 6 and 9 - 12 have been allowed.

However, claims 4, 7 and 8 have been objected to due to certain informalities, which the Examiner deemed needed correction, as specifically noted in item 1, page 2 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these objections.

As indicated above, claims 4, 7 and 8 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention, and in order to correct certain informalities therein, including those pointed out by the Examiner.

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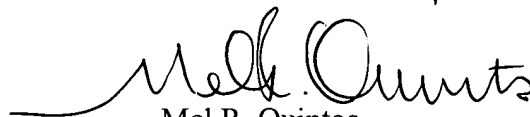
Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding objections to claims 4, 7 and 8 is in order,
and is therefore respectfully solicited.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the
Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number
indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an
appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due
with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Mel R. Quintos
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 31,898

MRQ/lrj/ipc
Atty. Docket No. **040368**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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